

Section II. Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 4, 12, 13, 16, 17, 26, 29 and 30, cancel claims 11 and 22, and add new claims 32 and 33, as set out in the following listing of the claims 1-33 of the application.

1. **(Withdrawn – currently amended)** A method of obtaining nanoparticles for the administration of at least one active ingredient, with a diameter less than 1 μ m, comprising the steps of:

- a) preparing an aqueous solution of a hyaluronic acid salt;
- b) preparing an aqueous solution of a cationic polymer;
- c) adding a ~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate to the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt;
- d) stir-mixing the solutions resulting from steps b) and c), spontaneously obtaining the nanoparticles,

wherein the active ingredient is dissolved in one of resulting solutions a), b) or c) or in the suspension of nanoparticles obtained in step d) to be absorbed in the nanoparticles; and

wherein the nanoparticles have no covalent bonds between the hyaluronic acid salt, cationic polymer, sodium tripolyphosphate and active ingredient, and are characterized by a stability of at least one month at ambient temperature storage.

2. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid salt solution is prepared at a concentration of between 0.50 and 5 mg/mL.

3. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer solution is prepared at a concentration of between 0.5 and 5 mg/mL.

4. **(Withdrawn – currently amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~anionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate is added at a concentration of between 0.25 and 1.00 mg/mL.

5. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the active ingredient comprises a macromolecule.

6. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 5, wherein, if the macromolecule has a lyophobic nature, said macromolecule is dissolved, before incorporating it in one of solutions a) or b), in a mixture of water and a water-miscible organic solvent, so that the concentration of the organic solvent in the end solution is less than 10% by weight.

7. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 6, wherein the organic solvent comprises acetonitrile.
8. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the hyaluronic acid salt comprises sodium salt.
9. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer comprises chitosan.
10. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the cationic polymer comprises collagen or gelatine.
11. **(Cancelled)**
12. **(Withdrawn – currently amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of hyaluronic acid:cationic polymer:~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate is between 1:0.5:0.1 and 1:10:2.
13. **(Withdrawn – currently amended)** The method according to claim 1, wherein the proportion of hyaluronic acid:cationic polymer:~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate is between 1:1:0.15 and 1:10:1.5.
14. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 1, further comprising an additional step e), after step d), of lyophilizing the nanoparticles obtained in the presence of reduced quantities of sugars.
15. **(Withdrawn)** The method according to claim 14, further comprising an additional step f), after step e), of regenerating the lyophilizing nanoparticles.
16. **(Currently amended)** Nanoparticles with a diameter less than 1µm, characterized by a stability of at least one month at ambient temperature storage, for the administration of an active ingredient, which are obtained by a method comprising (a) preparing an aqueous solution of a hyaluronic acid salt, (b) preparing an aqueous solution of a cationic polymer, (c) adding a ~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate to the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt, (d) stir-mixing the solutions resulting from steps (b) and (c), spontaneously obtaining the nanoparticles, wherein the active ingredient is dissolved in one of resulting solutions (a), (b) or (c) or in a suspension of the nanoparticles obtained in step (d), to be absorbed in the nanoparticles, wherein the nanoparticles have

no covalent bonds between the hyaluronic acid salt, cationic polymer, ~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate and active ingredient.

17. **(Currently amended)** Nanoparticles for the administration of an active ingredient, characterized by a stability of at least one month at ambient temperature, comprising a hyaluronic acid salt, a cationic polymer, ~~a polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate and the active ingredient as components, without covalent bonds between the components.

18. **(Previously presented)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the active ingredient comprises a macromolecule.

19. **(Previously presented)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the hyaluronic acid salt comprises sodium salt.

20. **(Previously presented)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the cationic polymer comprises chitosan.

21. **(Withdrawn)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the cationic polymer comprises collagen or gelatine.

22. **(Cancelled)**

23. **(Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition, comprising nanoparticles according to claim 16.

24. **(Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical composition for topical or parenteral administration or administration to mucous membranes of an active ingredient to a subject in need thereof, said pharmaceutical composition comprising nanoparticles according to claim 17.

25. **(Withdrawn)** A pharmaceutical or cosmetic composition, comprising nanoparticles according to claim 17.

26. **(Withdrawn – currently amended)** A method of making nanoparticles for administration of at least one active ingredient, with a diameter of less than 1 μ m, comprising:

providing an aqueous solution of a hyaluronic acid salt;

adding ~~a polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate to the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt;

mixing the solution of the hyaluronic acid salt to which said ~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate has been added,

with an aqueous solution of a cationic polymer, to yield said nanoparticles;

wherein the nanoparticles have no covalent bonds between the hyaluronic acid salt, cationic polymer, and sodium tripolyphosphate, and are characterized by a stability of at least one month at ambient temperature storage.

27. **(Withdrawn)** The method of claim 26, further comprising incorporating said active ingredient in said nanoparticles.

28. **(Withdrawn)** A method of treating a subject with an active ingredient, comprising administration to said subject of nanoparticles according to claim 17.

29. **(Currently Amended)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the proportion of hyaluronic acid salt: cationic polymer: ~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate is between 1:0.5:0.1 and 1:10:2.

30. **(Currently Amended)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, wherein the proportion of hyaluronic acid salt: cationic polymer: ~~polyanionic salt~~ sodium tripolyphosphate is between 1:1:0.15 and 1:10:1.5.

31. **(Previously Presented)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, which are in lyophilized form.

32. **(New)** Nanoparticles according to claim 16, storage stable in particle size and zeta potential for at least one month.

33. **(New)** Nanoparticles according to claim 17, storage stable in particle size and zeta potential for at least one month.